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Nickel

Total production of nickel in the Bloc is estimated at ^{54,000} ~~54,000~~ metric tons in 1957, ^{all of which, except 150 tons produced in East Germany, was produced} ~~of which 5,000 tons were produced in the USSR and 150 tons in~~ in the USSR.

~~East Germany~~ In 1956 repeat 1956, the Bloc imported 1,000 metric tons and exported 400 metric tons of nickel. In the USSR, nickel refineries are located as follows: Severonikel' Metallurgical Combine, Monchegorsk; the Yushualnikel Combine, Orsk; the Norilsk Metallurgical Combine, Norilsk; and the Ufaley Combine, Ufaley. In East Germany, refined nickel is produced at the Aus Nickel Plant at Aus.

Columbium and Tantalum

Data on Sino-Soviet Bloc production of columbium and tantalum are not available. The Bloc is known, however, to have extensive deposits of columbium and tantalum bearing minerals. Inasmuch as no attempts have been made to procure columbium from the Free World since 1955, it is presumed that the Bloc is self-sufficient in this material. Tantalum, however, appears to be in short supply, particularly in East Germany. Small quantities of tantalum metal have been smuggled into East Germany intermittently at least since 1953. Since mid-1957 reports of such smuggling have increased. Available evidence indicates that at least 100 pounds of tantalum metal have been exported to East Germany from West Germany via Sweden and Switzerland in 1957.

Molybdenum

Total Bloc production of molybdenum in 1957 is estimated at 7,400 metric tons (metallic equivalent of 65% molybdenite concentrates), including 5,800 tons produced in the USSR and 1,600 tons in China. The concentrates

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produced in China are exported to the USSR. The USSR estimate may be as much as 25% high. Bloc imports of molybdenum are negligible and there are no exports. In the USSR, the principal sources of molybdenum are at Tyng-Aus, where ore is mined and concentrated and at Vostochno-Kourudakiy, where copper-molybdenum ore is mined for processing at Balkhash. The Chelyabinsk Ferroalloys Plant at Chelyabinsk is the principal producer of ferromolybdenum. In China, almost all production of molybdenum concentrates is at Yang-Chia-Chang-Tzu in Liaoning Province.

Mercury

Sino-Soviet Bloc production and imports of mercury during 1957, in flasks of 76 pounds, are estimated as follows: Production -- USSR, 27,000; Communist China, 25,000; Rumania, 200; Czechoslovakia, 800; Total production, 53,000 flasks. Exports from the Free World: from Italy and Yugoslavia, 1,500 to 4,500. Exports to the Free World: negligible. Total new supply of mercury in the Sino-Soviet Bloc during 1957 is estimated, therefore, to be between 54,500 and 57,500 flasks. In the USSR, plants are located at Nikitovka in the Ukraine and at Kenderkhan and Chauway in the Kirgiz ASSR. The location of Chinese plants is not known. Rumania has a plant near Blatna and Czechoslovakia plants at Koterbachy and Gelnice.

Carbonyl Powder

Data on production of carbonyl nickel powder and on trade are not available for any of the Bloc countries. The USSR has ample supplies of nickel and has the technological capability of producing sufficient carbonyl powder to supply the relatively small quantities that are required. In the USSR, carbonyl nickel powder is produced at Krasnoyarsk and possibly at Monchegorsk.

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